

### Paul Harvey Inquiry Application

After finishing this project, I had time to reflect on my experience. First off, I definitely see the importance of inquiry in the classroom. As a future educator, I want my students to be able to use inquiry as a way to gain knowledge. A project such as this would definitely need to be modified for a middle school classroom, though. Students would need additional scaffolding and structure in order to fully gain the most from this assignment.

In order to modify this to suit a middle school classroom, I would change several things. First, I would have options for the students to choose from rather than allowing them to choose a topic completely by themselves. The main reason for this is because some topics do not have many sources. Personally, I found it difficult to sources for my own topic, so I know that many students would have difficulty with this if they chose topics without many sources. Since this would be a major assignment, I would also consider sitting down with each student to pick out a topic individually. While this would take a huge amount of time, it would be worth it for students to choose topics that they are interested in as well as topics in which they can gain knowledge.

In order for students to complete this assignment students would need extremely detailed directions on sources. I would schedule time in the computer lab and library in order for students to find and use primary sources. After students have decided upon their topic and sources, they would then be given detailed instructions on their first draft. An outline for how their historical inquiry should be developed would be crucial for students to have before they even begin writing. This would help them stay on the right course for

their paper. Personally, I had a difficult time getting started, so an outline would have been helpful for understanding how to set up the correct format. Next, I would have students begin writing, giving them many opportunities for revision and peer editing. The biggest modification I would have is more time to work on this project in school because students would need time in order to successfully construct their historical inquiries. Allowing them class time to write, revise, and complete their inquiry would benefit students greatly by allowing them to learn as they go along. This project also aligns with the common core standards in numerous ways. For example, reading standards for middle school students include the ability to “cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.” This historical inquiry would definitely accomplish this because students would be required to use text as their main evidence.

Overall, I would definitely use this type of assignment in my middle school classroom, modifying it in ways to best help my students. They would need much more guidance, structure, and evaluation along the way in order to successfully develop their historical inquiry.